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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No.2.....

pp 3295 - 4277

68519

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193

1948

E

E 3295

2

PALESTINE

11 MAR 1948

Registry
Number E3295/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dr O. Henry

Dated

Paris

Received
in Registry

43 Janing

8 Mar

11

Illegal Unemployment, Traveler TADORNE
Following received from Ministry of 15 of Feb. 4.

Refer Paris 11 (E3167/2/31)

Wrote record in of this traveler but up to
to present there is no trace of arrival in area.

Last Paper.

3289

(Minutes.)

JO Mar 11

References.

68519

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9.1
Mar 11

(Action
completed.)

9/11/12/3

(Index)

20/11/46

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3321

30471 F.O.P

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FO

371

68519

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DEPARTMENTAL

3295

MAR 1948

R. 10th March, 1948.

MAR 1948

3167/2/21

3870 FO.

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194

E

E 3521

4

1948

PALESTINE

12 MAR 1948

Registry Number } E3321/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Sir, O. Harvey
PARIS

Dated 222

Received in Registry }
10th Mar
12 "Illegal Immigration.

Addressed to Rome for N.A. No 16

Please pass to Ajaccio as Tel No 4.

Please ensure that telegrams sent to N.A.
Rome, on Subject of Jewish illegal Immigration
are repeated to this post.

Last Paper.

2295

(Minutes.)

JB Mar 12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8.19.P

Mar 15

(Action
completed.)

12/3

(Index)

10/11/48

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3329

30471 F.O.P

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145

E

E 3020

6

1948

PALESTINE

12 MAR 348

Registry Number } 3329/2/31

FROM Sir Clifford
Norton
No. ATHENS

Dated 86

Received } 8th Mar
in Registry } 12th "Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Copy of note to Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs No 95 of Mar 8th, stating that the S.S. MORINA need no longer be regarded as suspected of being about to engage in the illegal Jewish Immigration traffic.

Last Paper.

3321

References.

12207/84/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Robertson. M.I.R.
Higdon. C.V.
Mar 13th

(Action completed.)

pp 14/3

(Index.)

25/4/48

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3331

26513 F.O.P.

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5 3520

12 MAR '348

F

5th March....., 1948.

5th March....., 1948.

5th March....., 1948.

5th March....., 1948.

8

The applicants' Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to refer to the Royal Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs the same case of their highest consideration.

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197

E

E 3332

9

12 MAR 1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E3332/2/31

FROM Mr Sterndale Bennett

No. SOFIA

Dated 117

Received in Registry 5th Mar 12th Mar

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Copy of note verbale from Ministry for Foreign Affairs No 89/50/1 of 28th February, referring to Legation's note No 57 (27/28/48) E2086/2/31 re recent attempts by Jewish Illegals to embark from Bulgarian Ports.

Last Paper.

3331

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Southern Dept.
News Analyst.

JB Mar 13

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

335-4

26513 F.O.P.

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No. 117 (27/58/48)

HIS Majesty's Minister at Sofia
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Legation.....
Sofia.....
Bulgaria.....

12 MAR 1948
5th March, 1948

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note Verbale from Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs No.89/50/I dated 28.2.48.	Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Copies have also been sent to:

Washington	No.40
Jerusalem	5
UK Del. New York	5

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Copy.

Ministère des
Affaires Etrangères.
No. 89-50-I.

Sofia, le 28.2.48.

Monsieur le Ministre,

1. En réponse à la lettre sub No. 57/27-28/48 en date du 31 janvier 1948 concernant les juifs émigrants, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que je me vois obligé de vous exprimer mon étonnement tant de la négligence des faits évidents soulignés dans toutes les réponses du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères touchant cette question, que du ton inadmissible et inaccoutumé dans l'occurrence qui caractérise la lettre susmentionnée.

2. Je ne saurais également ne pas exprimer l'étonnement du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de ce que avant même qu'il ait étudié la susdite lettre et avant que l'Honorable Légation de Grande-Bretagne en ait pu recevoir une réponse, la teneur de ladite lettre fut diffusée avec grand bruit et avec une tendance bien marquée par la radio officielle britannique le 7 février 1948, à 6 heures du soir, heure britannique. Cette manière de procéder paraîtrait poursuivre un but qui s'écarterait du côté pratique de la question pour tendre vers une confrontation générale des faits d'un caractère politique et de propagande, faits qui altèrent le vrai sens des choses et portent vers une conclusion erronée.

3. Faisant ressortir cette pratique inaccoutumée dans les rapports du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Britannique envers le Gouvernement d'un Etat souverain, je me dois de vous dire que le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la République Populaire rejette résolument comme non fondée et ne reposant pas sur des faits réels la protestation du Gouvernement Britannique comme quoi les autorités bulgares en infraction de leur devoir auraient permis à un certain nombre de juifs émigrants venus de Roumanie de s'embarquer à Bourgas sur deux bateaux panaméens. Le Gouvernement Bulgare a observé scrupuleusement les dispositions du Droit International et n'a pas entravé par aucun de ses actes efforts de l'organisation des Nations Unies en vue de faire aboutir à une décision équitable la question palestinienne comme cela malheureusement se pratique par d'autres Etats.

4. Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères est heureux de faire remarquer que le journal britannique Manchester Guardian dans son numéro du 11 février a.c. fait également ressortir l'inopportunité de la protestation britannique.

5. Dans son désir de faciliter une émigration importante de juifs en Palestine, l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU comme cela est bien connu, a obligé la Grande-Bretagne qui exerce le mandat sur la Palestine, de faire tous ses efforts afin d'assurer sur le territoire de l'Etat juif en Palestine des ports et un hinterland suffisant qui devaient être évacués dans le plus bref délai et en aucun cas plus tard du 1er février a.c. "Aujourd'hui nous sommes le 11 février, écrit le journal Manchester Guardian, et le Gouvernement Britannique refuse encore de faire quoi que ce soit à cet effet. Bien entendu il existe

Son Excellence
Monsieur Sterndale Bennett
Ministre de Grande-Bretagne,
En ville.

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FO 371 / 68519					
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6. Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères ne pourrait ne pas être d'accord avec la conclusion de Manchester Guardian qu'en ce qui concerne les obligations envers l'ONU on ne saurait justifier les reproches faits par le Gouvernement Britannique à l'égard de la Bulgarie alors que ce même Gouvernement ne se trouve pas avoir accompli ses propres obligations. Même si le Gouvernement Bulgare avait pu supposer que les juifs émigrants traversant la Bulgarie avaient un autre but, dans ce cas également ledit Gouvernement a agi de bonne foi étant donné que l'émigration des juifs vers la Palestine était encouragée par l'ONU et il n'avait aucune raison de croire que le Gouvernement Britannique n'accomplirait pas ses obligations.

a) Pendant le mois de septembre 1947 les autorités bulgares avaient été priées par la Croix Rouge Roumaine d'accorder l'autorisation pour le passage en transit d'un groupe de juifs de Roumaine qui émigraient au Cuba. Par les document présentés, il était évident qu'il s'agissait d'une émigration absolument normale. Le groupe avait été muni d'un passeport d'émigration en règle, délivré par les autorités roumaines sub No 13072 de 1947. Un visa collectif accordant libre émigration au Cuba est délivré par le Consul Général de Cuba à Anvers, Belgique, fut également présenté aux autorités bulgares.

e) En présence donc des documents tout à fait en règle passeports et visas d'entrée en Bolivie et au Cuba, les autorités bulgares n'ont eu aucune raison de douter du but réel du voyage, d'autant plus que la Croix Rouge en Roumanie réglait le départ desdits émigrants. Le fait que pour leur transfert en Amérique des bateaux panamiens sont venus dans les ports bulgares, a été de nature à affermir encore davantage cette conviction des autorités bulgares. Ce n'est qu'à présent que l'appartenance de ces bateaux. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ comme il ressort de la déclaration de M. Bevin, faite à la Chambre de Communes le 11 février, est mise en doute par les autorités britanniques et actuellement une enquête serait menée en rapport avec les documents desdits bateaux qui auraient été enregistrés au Panama. Comme il appert de ce qui précède, le Gouvernement britannique s'est cru justifié de reprocher au Gouvernement bulgare d'aider l'émigration illégale des Juifs, alors que les autorités britanniques n'ont pas pu établir jusqu'au dernier moment, malgré tous mes moyens dont-elles disposent, une irrégularité quelconque dans les documents des bateaux panamiens.

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3.

d) l'affirmation de la Légation de Grande-Bretagne que le 25 décembre 1947 douze mille personnes auraient passé de Roumanie en direction de Bourgas est tout à fait arbitraire et non fondée.

Je prends la liberté de vous dire que, sauf les faits que le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a jusqu'à présent mis en avant au sujet des questions soulevées en connexion avec les Juifs émigrants, toutes les autres affirmations, publications et radio-diffusions non conformes à ces faits, ne sont à son avis que d'absurdes inventions et le Ministère les dément de la façon la plus catégorique.

Exposant les faits tels-quels, faits qui, d'ailleurs, prouvent d'une manière indiscutable la légalité et la sincérité des actes des autorités bulgares, je me vois dans l'obligation de vous faire part que le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères rejette les reproches qui lui sont adressés dans la lettre du Foreign Office et il déclare que, quoique la Bulgarie à son grand regret, ne soit pas encore admise à l'ONU, il connaît quelles sont les obligations d'un membre de cette Organisation et qu'il s'inspirera dans ses actes ayant trait aux Juifs émigrants uniquement de l'esprit bien net des décisions de cette même Organisation.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, les assurances de ma haute considération.

VICE-PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL,
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES;

V. Kolaroff

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200	E	14
1948	PALESTINE	E 3387
		17 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3387/2/33

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Consul +General

TUNIS

Dated 16

Received in Registry 10th March

Illegal Immigration.

Refers Tunis tel No 14 E2946/2/31,

"Il Issos" arrived Sfax March 2nd left March 9th with 7620 tons phosphates and 100 tons esparto grass Calais.

Last Paper.

336/

(Minutes.)

18 Mar. 15

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. P.P. on E3321 Mar 13

(Action completed.)	(Index.)
11/3	25/6/48

Next Paper.

3391

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Group.....FO.....
Class.....371.....
Piece.....68519.....

E 3442 / 2 / 31G

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E

E 3500

16

1948

PALESTINE

16 MAR 1948

Registry Number } E3500/2/31
FROM

No. Sir O. Harvey

Dated Paris

Received } to E. Dept.
in Registry } 13th Mar
16th "

Last Paper.

3442

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Higham. 80
Robertson. M.I. 5
Doddle Admty
Herman Cab. Off.
Mar 18

(Action completed.)

9/2/48

(Index.)

25/4/48

Next Paper.

3561

Illegal Immigration. "MARIE ANNICK"

W.S.

Copy of letter to Ministry of Foreign Affairs No 227 of March 13th, drawing attention to the "MARIE ANNICK" now at Genoa, but according to information received, she will shortly sail to Sardinia to take on an unspecified cargo and then proceed to Palestine. This Cargo will probably be either Illegal Immigrants or arms and ammunition. Asks Ministry to give immediate consideration to withdrawal of ships registration.

(Minutes.)

Copy Co
MIS
Admty.
Cab. Off.)

usual names

Western Dept.
19/3

JB Mar 16

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FO 371 / 68519

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

13th March, 1948.

Immediate

E 3500

16 MAR 1948

*With the Compliments
of His Majesty's Embassy.*

to: Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London. S.W.1.

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18
British Embassy,
Paris.

15/122/48

15th March, 1948.

No. 227

Immediate

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to draw the attention of the Ministry to the "Marie Annick", an auxiliary schooner, which for some time past has been engaged in the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic.

2. On 20th November 1947, the "Marie Annick" left Bastia giving her destination as Marseilles. She next appeared at Genoa on 6th February 1948, having made a successful voyage to Palestine carrying about 200 illegal Jewish immigrants who landed there without being detected.

3. The "Marie Annick" is still at Genoa but, according to information received by His Majesty's Embassy, she will shortly sail to Sardinia (probably to Cagliari) to take on an unspecified cargo and then proceed to Palestine. In view of the past record of this ship, it can only be assumed that the cargo in question consists either of illegal Jewish immigrants or arms and ammunition intended for a Jewish organisation in Palestine.

4. The "Marie Annick" is a French ship owned by the Société Senegambia of Marseilles and registered at Brest (No. 6279). His Majesty's Embassy would accordingly be grateful if, in view of the information furnished above, the Ministry would give immediate consideration to the withdrawal of the registration of this ship which has caused considerable embarrassment to His Majesty's Government in the past and is likely to be a source of further trouble in the future.

5. In the meantime, the Italian authorities have been asked to take measures to delay the departure of the "Marie Annick" from Genoa.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(For the attention of Monsieur F. Chiarasini,
Direction des Conventions Administratives
et Sociales, 80, rue de Lille)

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E

E 3561

19

1948

PALESTINE

17 MAR '48

Registry Number E3561/2/31

FROM Chancery
Confidential BUCHAREST

No. 28/49/48

Dated 6th Mar

Received in Registry 17th "

Illegal Jewish Immigration.Refers Bucharest tel No 166. (1791/2/11)
of 6th Feb.Illegal Immigration by sea from Roumania is
apparently at an end for the time being.
Gives particulars of arrest of one Marcu Singros
local representative of John Pandelis, a day
before he was due to leave with several of his
friends in a vessel he had purchased from the
Russian naval authorities at a cost of \$20,000.

Last Paper.

3500

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Higham. Gb.
Reuben. M. 15
Wolch. Admty
Rosen. Sub Off
April 17

(Minutes.)

Quite funny

Southern Dept.
Northern Dept.
Mr F.A. Warner

copy to

Miss

Admty

Cab. Off.

usual

names

Could we not

look this up

with documentation

We can show this

in April 3

J.S. Burns

Mar. 17

LP/
20/3

The Minister of State has minuted:-

Could we not ^{leak} ~~say~~ this with better documentation
than is shown here?

H.McN. April 3rd.

We will make use of News Department and of Mr.
Herbert Mathews for the American press if Eastern
Department can let us have fuller details as requested.

- F.A. Warner

(F.A. WARNER)
5th April, 1948.

this

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Confidential.

28/49/48

British Legation,

Bucharest.

17 March 1948

E 3561

17 MAR 1948

Dear Department,

Illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine by sea from Rumania is apparently at an end for the time being as was foreshadowed in paragraph 2 of my telegram No. 166 of 6th February.

Marcu Syngros, local representative of John Pandelis, who has been allowed freely to organize the shipping side of this traffic since 1942 and who has naturally made a fortune out of it, was arrested in January at Constantza a day before he was due to leave with several of his friends in a vessel he had purchased from the Russian naval authorities at a cost of £20,000.

He was obliged to hand the vessel back to the Russians as a gift and was kept in prison until the National Bank had received all funds held by him in Switzerland. They are said to have amounted to another 100,000 dollars. When the Communist Party had received advice that this money had been received from Switzerland, Mr. Syngros was taken to the western frontier and told to make himself scarce. This he very sensibly did.

We thought this information might interest you.

Yours ever,
CLANCERY.

Eastern Department,

Foreign Office.

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50 1948	Palestine EASTERN	E3543 / G 1 MAR 1948 21
E3543/2/31/c Sir R. Campbell Cairo 361 (confidential) Dated 16 March	Illegal immigration S.S. Argentina	
Last Paper. E3442	(Minutes.) Copies 11A	
References. E3026/2/c.	16 Mar. 17	
(Print.)	See within	
(How disposed of.) 8) 11A 24 March 8) L. Cairo tel. 450 11A April 13th	1) Cairo tel. no 450 of April 10th Copies 11A 13 Apr. 13	
(Action completed.) 25/3	(Index.) 11A	
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Cypher/OTF

22
E3842
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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Campbell
No. 361
16th March, 1948

D. 9.54 a.m. 16th March, 1948
R. 11.30 a.m. 16th March, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

E/G
Your despatch No. 171: Jewish illegal immigration.

Consul-General at Alexandria reports that
s.s. Argentina arrived Alexandria from Palestine
11th March, reported leaving for Genoa 17th March.

aaaaaaa

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E E3513 23

Cypher/OTP

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir R. Campbell, D. 5.09 p.m. 10th April, 1948.
No. 450
10th April, 1948. R. 7.45 p.m. 10th April, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No. 361. E/G.

Jewish illegal immigration.

The Consul General at Alexandria reports that
S.S. Argentina arrived at Alexandria from Genoa
and Naples April 3rd sailed for Haifa and Beirut
April 4th. Due to return to Alexandria April 9th
returning to Genoa and Naples.

QQQQQ

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E

E 3583

17 MAR 1948

24

10-8

PALESTINE

Registry Number E3583/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Sir O. Harvey

Confidential.

Dated

Received in Registry

Paris

49 Saving

13th March
17th "Illegal Immigration. "MARIE ANNICK"

Refers Foreign Office Telegram No, 697 of 13th March. (E3361/2/31)

Prior to receipt of tel under reference had informed French Government of recent activities of "MARIE ANNICK" and pressed for withdrawal of registration.

Text of note to follow by bag.

Last Paper.

3573

References.

(Minutes.)

JB Mar. 17

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9.48
Mar 18

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

P. 11/18/3

25/4/48

Next Paper.

3630

30471 F.O.P

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FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir O. Harvey
No. 49 Saving

15th March, 1948

R. 16th March, 1948

E 3583

17 MAR 1948

Repeated to Rome No. 6 Saving

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 49 Saving
of 15th March repeated for information to Rome.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Prior to receipt of your telegram No. 697, we had
informed French Government of recent activities of
"Marie Annick" and pressed for withdrawal of registration.

2. Text of Note follows by bag.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

888

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E

E 3630

1548

PALESTINE

18 MAR 1948

26

Registry Number E3630/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Greenway
No. PANAMA

Dated 29

Received in Registry 17th March
18th "Illegal Immigration.Refers Panama telegram No 27(E3127/2/31) dated
Mar 5th.

Note dated March 9th received from Minister for Foreign Affairs states that enquires made by Panamanian representatives in Marseilles and Genoe show that "Medina" "Atalena" and "Cypress" have not been engaged in Illegal traffic and unless reliable proof of these accusations is presented registration of these ships cannot be cancelled.

Last Paper.

3583

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. 9. 9. P

Mar

Tel. Panama

No 40

Mar 20

8. 9. 9. P

Mar 22nd

(Action completed.)

J.C.W. 22/3

(Index.)

25/1/48

Next Paper.

3645

(Minutes.)

Draft tel sent
JB
JB Mar 20

In P.P. to Greenway, Panama 23/3

JB Apr. 1

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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FO 371 / 68519

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Code R.

3630 27
18 DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION
MAR 1948

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Greenway.
No. 29

D. 12.52 pm. 17th March, 1948.
R. 9.14 pm. 17th March, 1948.

17th March, 1948.

IMPORTANT

My telegram No.27.

Jewish immigration.

Note dated March 9th received today from Minister for Foreign Affairs states that enquiries made by Panamanian representatives in Marseilles and Genoa show that Medina, Atalena and Cypress have not been engaged in illegal traffic and unless reliable proof of these accusations is presented registration of these ships cannot (repeat cannot) be cancelled.

I am sending translation of this note by air mail. Briefly it states that Medina has no passenger certificate and is solely engaged in transport of sugar for Cuban interests.

[Grp.undec.? Pan]delis Simpson of New York has given formal assurances to Panamanian Government that Medina and Cypress will never engage in illegal immigrant trade and are being prepared for transport of displaced persons from Europe to South America.

Atalena is said to be engaged in ordinary cargo voyages between Genoa and Casablanca transporting automobiles with Lloyd's Insurance. Panamanian Consul at Marseilles reports operations of ships are perfectly in order.

ppp

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Registry
No. E 3630/2/31

J.G.S.B.

Draft.
Panama.

Telegram.

No. 40.

Dated. *handed*

Cypher
Departmental
22 6 1948

Copies I.I.P.

CYPHER 28
28 March 1948
Despatched 2 55 P.M.

CONF.

~~Addressed to Panama No. _____ of~~

~~March~~

Your telegram No. 29 [of March 17th:
Jewish illegal immigration].

A despatch is on its way to you
enclosing an account of a meeting
between H.M. Consul-General at Genoa and
the two principal shipping agents for
the traffic, D'Andria and Pandelis.
Latter stated openly that they would
use their four ships, "Medina", "Guerazzi",
"Las Tamplas" and "Cyprus" for illegal
immigration, unless H.M.G. agreed to
remove their names from the Black List.
This evidence shows the assurances quoted
by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to
in correct.
be ~~completely false.~~

JB Mac-20

1235

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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~~Green~~

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PANAMA

No. 40

20th March, 1948. D. 2.35 p.m. 20th March, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 29 [of March 17th: Jewish
illegal immigration].

A despatch is on its way to you enclosing an account of a meeting between His Majesty's Consul-General at Genoa and the two principal shipping agents for the traffic, D'Andria and Pandelis. Latter stated openly that they would use their four ships, "Medina", "Guerazzi", "Las Tamplas" and "Cyprus" for illegal immigration, unless His Majesty's Government agreed to remove their names from the Black List. This evidence shows the assurances quoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be incorrect.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat].

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3630

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INDEXED

BRITISH MINISTER

at

(Ref. F.O. telegram No. 40 of 20th March to Panama.)

25rd March

1948

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FO 371 68519

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44-176/48

23rd March 1948

My dear Dr. de Diego,

I have just received a telegram from my Government, stating that a despatch is on its way to me enclosing an account of a meeting between His Majesty's Consul-General at Genoa and the two principal shipping agents for traffic, d'Andria and Pandellis, when the two latter stated openly that they would use their four ships, Medina, Guerazzini, Les Temples, and Cypress, for illegal immigration unless His Majesty's Government agreed to remove their names from the black list. It is added that the evidence provided by this document shows that the assurances given to the Peninsular Consul-General in New York by Dr. Pandellis Simpson are valueless.

I fear that this despatch will not arrive here before Your Excellency leaves for Bogotá, but I would like you to know this fact before your departure.

I shall of course convey the fullest information to Your Excellency's Department as soon as the despatch in question is received here.

Believe me,
My dear Dr. de Diego,
Yours very sincerely,

(Ind.) JOHN D. GREENWAY.

His Excellency
Dr. Mario de Diego,
Minister for Foreign Relations,
Panama, R. de P.

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under Section 3 (4) of the
Public Records Act, 1958

E 3645 / 2 / 31
E 3646

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Reference:-

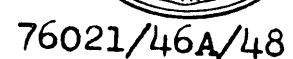
FO 371 / 68519

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<div>51 1848</div>	<div>Palestine</div> <div>EASTERN</div>	<div>E3654/G</div> <div>32</div>
<div>E3654/2 1 31/6</div> <div>Mr Holmes CO.</div> <div>to Mr Beith</div> <div>Y602 1/46A/48</div> <div>Dated 16 March</div>	<div>Documents on Pan ship immigrants</div> <div>Also report of arrival of Zecchi Fratelli.</div>	
<div>Last Paper</div> <div>E3573</div> <div>References</div> <div>E2047/186/G</div> <div>(Print)</div>	<div>(Minutes)</div> <div>Re return the documents as requested to Mr Holmes: also the docs. mentioned in his third para.</div> <div>JB Apr. 21</div>	
<div>(How disposed of)</div> <div>Enclosure 31/6/48</div> <div>April 23.</div>		
<div>(Action completed)</div> <div>W 23/4</div>	<div>(Index)</div> <div>W</div>	
<div>Next Paper</div>		

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The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

E 3604
March, 1948.

My dear Beith,

I enclose for your information a copy of Palestine savingram No. 70 with enclosures containing the results of further scrutiny of documents found on the Pan ship immigrants; also a copy of Palestine savingram No. 67 enclosing reports of the arrival of the Isetti Fratelli. For some reason the total number of immigrants on this ship is reported differently by the C.I.D. and by 317 Airborne F.S.S.

In both cases the enclosures are originals, so that I must ask to have them back.

Incidentally I should be grateful for the return of the original enclosures to Palestine savings

/Nos.

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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Nos. 23 and 26, sent in my letter
of the 6th February, when you have
finished with them.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Holmer
(P.C.H. Holmer)

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E 3693

35

Cypher/OTP

20 MAR 1948

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet
No. 523

D. 1.00 p.m. 19th March 1948
R. 2.22 p.m. 19th March 1948

19th March 1948

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Paris telegram No. 50 of 19th March repeated for information to Foreign Office.

Foreign Office telegram No. 697 to you.

Jewish illegal immigration.

The French Consul at Geneva has agreed at the request of His Majesty's Consul to delay the ship until tomorrow March 20th but has so far received no instructions and is unable to take further action unless he receives them.

2. We fear that unless the French Government send immediate instructions to Geneva the ship will be allowed to sail tomorrow.

3. We should be glad of any action you can take.

Foreign Office pass to Paris.

[Repeated to Paris]

ccc

20 MAR 1948

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E

1948

PALESTINE

E 3709

22 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3709/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Consul General
No. NEW YORK
76

Dated

Received 19th Mar
in Registry 22nd "Permanent Honduran Registration for Suspect ships.

Agents of ships "Sapho" "Erato" "Myrto" "Norlandia" and "Thetis" have requested provision of a letter from Consul General stating that the owner had not been involved in any pro-Jewish operations in Palestine. Ships are under provisional Honduran registry and have been mortgaged by owners. Permanent registration is a condition of mortgage and bank is pressing for fulfillment of that condition.

Last Paper.

7693

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. P. P. R.

Mar 22

H. General
New York 70

S. P. P. R.

April 6

(Action completed.)

f. 1/1
1/1/1/4

(Index.)

25/1/4

Next Paper.

3737

(Minutes.)

I have asked Co. for their
views on this

Bu. Apr. 1st

JB Mar. 23

Tel. to N. York
JB Apr. 1

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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FO

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul General

No. 76

D. 2.22 p.m. 19th March, 1948

R. 8.45 p.m. 19th March, 1948

March 19th, 1948

Repeated Washington Saving

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 76 March 19th
Repeated Saving to Washington.

Agents of following five steam ships have requested a letter from me stating that owner had not been involved in any pro-Jewish operations in Palestine. Ships are Sapho, Erato, Myrto, Norlandia and Thetis. Owner is Stravos Niarchos and Agents are Simpson Spence and Young, all of New York.

2. Ships were acquired in 1946 from United States Maritime Commission and during past two years have been and still are under charter to Agents who are reputable firm. Ships are under provisional Honduran registry and have been mortgaged by owners. Permanent registration is a condition of mortgage and Bank is pressing for fulfilment of that condition. Honduran Embassy in London informed Agents' representative there that registration could not be effected until letter referred to in paragraph 1 was produced.

3. Sapho and Thetis are on way to Antwerp with coal (Belgian Economic Mission). Erato is loading at Buenos Aires for United Kingdom (Ministry of Food) Myrto has made voyages to Antwerp with coal and is now under repairs at Baltimore. Norlandia has transported general cargo to Lisbon and is now on way to Buenos Aires from United States with coal.

4. Agents state that they were advised by Mr. Hyams of Colonial Office to apply to me for required letter. I would be grateful for instructions (Agents will refund cost of telegrams).

uuuuu

37

3709

22 MAR 1948

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FO 371 / 68519

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Registry
No. E. 3709/2/31.

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~
~~Open~~

J.G.S.B.

CYPHER³⁸
F.O.

April, 1948.

Despatched

M.

Draft.

H.M. Consul-General.

NEW YORK.

Telegram.

No. 40.

(Date) 1st April.

Repeat to:—

Co. agree

Recover cost
via N-Ynk

~~Enc. Clair.~~

~~Code.~~

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental

Copies to:—

I.I.P.

Your telegram No. 76 of March 19th:
Jewish Illegal Immigration.

The Colonial Office were approached
by the Agents in regard to these ships and
replied ~~that~~ that, "so far as they were
aware, neither Mr. Niarchos nor his affiliated
Companies have been in any way concerned
in assisting illegal immigration into Palestine."
Agents have subsequently had this letter
verified by ~~Notary~~ ^{ca} and no further action
appears to be required by you. You may
however ~~give~~ ^{re} repeat the Colonial Office
Statement if necessary.

SB Apr. 1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13558) Wt. 43697-140 100m 347 G.S.S. Cp 620

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214

E

46

1948

PALESTINE

E 3737

22 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3737/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Sterndale
No. Bennett**SECRET**
Dated

SOFIA

Received
in Registry

322

17th Mar
22nd "Illegal Immigration, Bulgaria.

Refers recent correspondence with reference to illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine from Bulgaria. Hopes every effort will be made to get precise information re Bulgarian passengers on ships that have recently arrived in Palestine.

Last Paper.

3709

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9. ✓
Mar 23

Dft. J. Chapman

from M. Beith
enc

April 7

Def. Sofia 323
April 5 P.T.O.(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

P.S.
1. 6/5/48

24/4/48

Next Paper.

3738

(Minutes.)

I regret that this paper has taken some time to submit owing to the fact that the relevant papers were in action in various departments.

Mr. Sterndale Bennett has now linked this question of illegal immigration from Bulgaria to Palestine to two general questions of Bulgarian policy which are the concern of Southern Dept. (see para.5). He accepts the decision that we should not continue the official correspondence with the Bulgarian Govt. about the departure of the "Pan" ships, but he asks for further information from Cyprus proving that a proportion of the illegal immigrants were Bulgarian. All the information that has so far been provided from Cyprus is contained in the second paragraph of our telegram No.268 to Sofia on E3117/2/31. We know from experience that the facilities for interrogation in Cyprus are far from adequate and that the discipline of the illegal immigrants is good. In these circumstances it is very doubtful whether we shall secure more circumstantial evidence to meet Sterndale Bennett's requirements.

I suggest that we should send a short interim telegram to Sofia and a letter to the Colonial Office, to whom I have already spoken about this.

Drafts attached.

Southern Dept. Print

30471 E.O.P.

M.W./4

M.S. Beith

1st April, 1948.

(BEITH)

P.T.O.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Reference:-
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371 / 68519

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In P.P. T.D. Ingram, 80. Broad. 76021/40A/48
80 to U/W. Saving 10/4

JB Apr. 21

8, 99. P.
April 8

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Cypher/...

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FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

3737

Mr. Sterndale Bennett. D. 12.34 p.m. 18th March, 1948.
No. 522.
17th March, 1948. A. 2.20 p.m. 19th March, 1948.

22 MAR 1948

SECRET.

Following for Wallinger, Southern Department.

You may not have personally seen the correspondence about illegal immigration into Palestine from Bulgaria with which I assume the Eastern Department deal. I should like to draw your attention therefore to the following points.

2. See statement in paragraph 3 of Bulgarian note enclosed in my despatch to F.O. No. 29 of January 18th. Compare this with paragraph 1(a) Jerusalem telegram No. 120 [grp. undec. ? circular] paragraph 4 Jerusalem secret telegram No. 493 to London and paragraph 2 Foreign Office telegram No. 268.

3. Apart from protestation in the penultimate paragraph of the Bulgarian note of February 28th copied to F.O. in my despatch 117 March 8th, please see categorical denial by the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs reported in my telegram No. 231 and in paragraph 3 of the memorandum in my despatch 90 that a contingent of Jews had left Bulgaria via Yugoslavia on February 14th.

4. Now see information contained in Jerusalem telegram to Sofia No. 620 (repeat to London No. 596).

5. I hope every effort will be made to get precise information (i.e. numbers and if possible names and even addresses with any supporting documents) from Cyprus regarding Bulgarian passengers both in "Pan York" and "Pan Crescent" and again in this latest ship "Rondine". I attach importance to this not as much in connexion with Jewish immigration problem as on general grounds. Present information is unfortunately not sufficiently detailed to confront and confound the Bulgarian Government but it shows what value to attach to the latter statements. I hope that these examples will be borne in mind when considering the statement of the Bulgarian Minister of Defence (my telegram No. 278) and assurances just given by the Bulgarian Government about military clauses of Peace Treaty (my telegram No. 515).

[Copy sent to Mr. Wallinger Southern Department].

0:0

22 MAR 1948

22 MAR 1948

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Registry
No. E3737/2/31

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Open.

JG SB

Draft

J.D. Higham, Esq.
Colonial Office

from
Mr. Beith
S. Beith

Sofia tel 322

De Beith
Apr. 1

74.
8/4

My dear John,

I drew Holmer's attention recently to Sofia telegram No.322 of March 17 in which our Minister explained the importance he attaches, for reasons distinct from our illegal immigration policy, to receiving more circumstantial evidence about the presence of Bulgarians on board illegal immigration ships.

We are explaining to Sterndale Bennett the difficulty of obtaining more circumstantial evidence but at the same time we should be grateful if everything possible could be done, in view of his request, to add to the information contained in Cyprus telegram No.21 of March 1st.

I enclose a copy of Sofia telegram No.322 for ease of reference.

42
5/4

7 April 6/10
March, 1948. 7/1
42

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3149 Wt. 26469/37 100m 9446 (51) F&S.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

7th April, 1948. 43

(E 3737/2/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear John,

I drew Holmer's attention recently to Sofia telegram No. 322 of the 17th March in which our Minister explained the importance he attaches, for reasons distinct from our illegal immigration policy, to receiving more circumstantial evidence about the presence of Bulgarians on board illegal immigration ships.

We are explaining to Sterndale Bennett the difficulty of obtaining more circumstantial evidence but at the same time we should be grateful if everything possible could be done, in view of his request, to add to the information contained in Cyprus telegram No. 21 of the 1st March.

I enclose a copy of Sofia telegram No. 322 for ease of reference.

Yours sincerely,

(J.G.S. Beith)

J.D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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LG SB

March, 1948

Despatched

M.

SECRET

Following from Wallinger.

Owing to the limited facilities for interrogation at the Cyprus camps and the effective discipline of the illegal immigrants, ~~we cannot unfortunately~~
~~hold out much hope that it~~ ^{may not} ~~will~~ be possible to provide you with more detailed and circumstantial evidence as requested in paragraph 5 of your telegram. Nevertheless we are taking the matter up again with the Colonial Office, emphasising the importance which you attach to such information for reasons distinct from our illegal immigration policy.

SOFIA

№ 323

Date April 5th

Cypher

Southern Dept.
first.

H. S. Baird
Mar 31

Distribution.

Departmental

Copies -

~~I.I.P.~~

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Cypher/OTP
E 3737/2/31

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

45

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA

No.323
5th April, 1948.

D. 2.00 p.m. 6th April, 1948.

SECRET

Your telegram No.322 [of March 17th: Jewish Illegal Immigration].

Following from Wallinger.

Owing to the limited facilities for interrogation at the ~~Cyprus camps~~ and the effective discipline of the illegal immigrants, it may not be possible to provide you with more detailed and circumstantial evidence as requested in paragraph 5 of your telegram. Nevertheless we are taking the matter up again with the Colonial Office, emphasising the importance which you attach to such information for reasons distinct from our illegal immigration policy.

QQQQ

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T. G. S. Beith, Esq.
Foreign Office

pw

46

76021/46A/48
in J. D. Hyland

16th April 1948

2336 2 31

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76021/46A/48.

Saving.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
The Commissioner for Jewish Camps
To the Officer Commanding the Government of CYPRUS.

Date 16 April, 1948.

No. (Unnumbered) Saving. SECRET.

Your telegram No. 25, repeated to
Palestine No. 39.

Bulgarians in Cyprus Camps.

His Majesty's Minister, Sofia, is
anxious, on general grounds, to receive
precise information (i.e. numbers and if
possible names and even addresses with any
supporting documents) regarding Bulgarian
passengers in "Pan" ships, "Rondine" and
later arrivals, in order to confront the
Bulgarian Government, who have repeatedly
denied participation of Bulgars in illegal
immigration.

2. Grateful therefore for any further
details which may come to light, including
confirmation of report from military
sources contained in your telegram under
reference.

SECRET.

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E

E 3738

48

1948

PALESTINE

22 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3738/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Sir Victor Mallet
No. ROME

519

Dated

Received 19th March
in Registry 22nd "Illegal Immigration, Activities of A.J.D.C.

~~Refers~~ Foreign Office telegram No, 650, (E2516/2/31)
Gist of Mr. Ward's memorandum has been communicated
to the secretary in United States Embassy who
originally asked for this information,
Copy is being sent to Washington,
United States Embassy contact made no secret of
the political difficulties impeding positive action
against A.J.D.C. but it is possible that State Dept
might be willing to put pressure on this body to
restrict it's objectionable activities during the next
few critical months.

Last Paper.

1737

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S.P.P.
Mar 23 (E3737)Spt. Planceny
Washington
April 9
Camp. Planceny
Rome.
April 9(Action
completed.)

6/6/4

(Index.)

15/11/48

Next Paper.

3749

(Minutes.)

I don't think there is much
point in pressing this with the
State Dept. now and suggest
that the Embassy might
simply hand in a copy
saying that this is what
we have communicated to
their Embassy in Rome

1st Mar R. 1/4
NA Dept.
Refugee Dept. First

J.S. Baird
Mar. 24

S.P.P. Planceny Washington 9/11/48

Draft JB Apr. 7

3071 F.O.P.

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FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet
No. 519

19th March, 1948

Repeated to Washington

D. 1.09 p.m. 20th March, 1948
R. 2.35 p.m. 20th March, 1948

49
3750

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 519 of 19th March
repeated [gp. undec. ? Washington].

Your telegram No. 650 AJDC and Jewish illegal immigration.

Gist of Mr. Ward's memorandum has been communicated to the Secretary in United States Embassy who originally asked us for this information. I am sending a copy by bag to His Majesty's Embassy Washington as you may wish to instruct [gp. undec.] speak to the State Department. Our contact in United States Embassy made no secret of the political difficulties impeding positive action in Washington against AJDC but it is possible that State Department might be willing to put pressure on this body to restrict its objectionable activities at any rate during the critical next few months.

Foreign Office repeat Washington as my telegram No. 49.

[Repeated to Washington].

uuuuu

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E 50

1st April, 1948.

3738 2 21

INDEXED

We have now received a copy of the memorandum concerning the assistance given by the American Joint Distribution Committee to Jewish illegal immigrants which was referred to in Rome telegram to you No. 519 of the 19th March. Would you please let us know whether you would like us to inform the State Department of its contents.

CHANCERY.

SC

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

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(33654) Wt.14696/147 75,000 6/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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Chancery
washn.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your letter C-10 / - / 48
of April 1 about the
memo. prepared by the
Embassy at Rome on
the subject of the
assistance given by
the AJDC to Jewish
illegal immigrants.

we do not require
you to press the matter
with the State Dept.
at this stage but
suggest that, as a
matter of courtesy,
you might hand in
a copy of the memo.
saying

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Saying that this is what
has been communicated
to their Embassy at
Rome.

N.D. we are sending a copy of their letter
Yours ever to the Chancery at Rome

E. Dept.

JB Apr. 7

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9th April, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your letter G10/-/48 of 1st April about the memorandum prepared by the Embassy at Rome on the subject of the assistance given by the American Joint Distribution Committee to Jewish illegal immigrants.

We do not require you to press the matter with the State Department at this stage but suggest that, as a matter of courtesy, you might hand in a copy of the memorandum saying that this is what has been communicated to their Embassy at Rome.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the
Chancery at Rome.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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E

53

1648

PALESTINE

E 3749

22 MAR 1948

Registry
Number E 3749/2/31
TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Ashley Clarke
No. PARIS

SECRET
Dated

306

Received
in Registry 22nd March
22nd "

Illegal Immigration, "MARIE ANNICK"

Addressed to Rome No, 26.

Refers Rome telegram No, 523 to Foreign Office,
(E 3692/2/31) dated 19th March.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs have warned all ports
particularly Bastia and Tunis to look out for
"Marie Annick" but cannot prevent ship from sailing
from a foreign port unless registration can be
withdrawn, and that this can only be decided upon
by the man on the spot after examination of papers.
Asks to be kept informed of ships movements.

Last Paper.

7738

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, P. P.

Mar 23

(Action
completed.)

9/6/48

(Index.)

22/11/48

Next Paper.

3774

30471 F.O.P

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E 54
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Cypher/OTP.

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FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Ashley Clarke. D. 1.35 p.m. 22nd March, 1948.
No. 306.
22nd March, 1948. R. 2.05 p.m. 22nd March 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Addressed to Rome telegram No. 28 61 MAR 28 1948
repeated for information to Foreign Office.

Your telegram No. 30. Jewish illegal immigration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs have warned all ports particularly Bastia and Tunis to look out for "Marie Annick" but cannot prevent ship from sailing from a foreign port unless registration can be withdrawn, and that this can only be decided upon by the man on the spot after examination of papers.

2. Please keep me informed of ship's movements.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Rome.

[Repeated to Rome]

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217	E	55
1948	PALESTINE	E 3774
		23 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3774/2/31 FROM John Greenway No. Panama Dated 24 Received in Registry 17th Mar 23rd "	<u>Jewish Illegal Immigration.</u> Refers Panama telegram No, 29 of 17th March (E3630/2/31). Now transmits copy of note from Minister for Foreign Affairs No, 484 with translation dated March 9th, with reference to Suspect illegal immigrant ships.
--	--

Last Paper. 7749	(Minutes.)			
References.	JB Mar 23			
(Print.)				
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<table border="1"> <tr> <td>(Action completed.)</td> <td>(Index.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/24/3</td> <td>23/4/48</td> </tr> </table>		(Action completed.)	(Index.)	20/24/3
(Action completed.)	(Index.)			
20/24/3	23/4/48			
Next Paper.				
3785				

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D.P. N° 484.

Panamá, Marzo 9 de 1948.

Señor Ministro:

Cúmplen referirme a las atentas comunicaciones de Vuestra Excelencia números 8 y 11/176/48 de 13 de enero del año en curso, y a mis notas respuestas D.P. números 115 y 119 de 14 del mismo mes, relacionadas con la solicitud de esa Misión, en el sentido de que se tomasen las medidas necesarias para la cancelación de las matrículas panameñas de los barcos "MEDINA", "ATALENA" y "CYPRESS", por considerarse que se estaban dedicando al tráfico de inmigrantes judíos.

Sobre el particular cúmplen manifestarle que el Ministerio de Hacienda y Tesoro ha comunicado a este Despacho que de las investigaciones llevadas a cabo por los Consules de Panamá en Génova, Italia, y Marsella, Francia, se ha establecido que los mencionados barcos no se dedican ni se han dedicado al comercio ilegal, y que por consiguiente, no procede la cancelación de las patentes de inscripción de la aludidas naves, mientras no se presenten pruebas fidedignas de los actos ilícitos que se imputan a tales naves.

Según los informes obtenidos por este Despacho, de fuentes fidedignas, se tiene conocimiento de que el buque "MEDINA" fue fletado para transportar 4.000 toneladas de azúcar de Cuba a Génova. El buque salió de Nueva York el 4 de diciembre de 1947; hizo escala en Tánamo, Cuba, de donde tomó cargamento de azúcar y zarpó para su destino final. A mediados de enero hizo escala en "Las Palmas", Islas Canarias, donde se llevaron a cabo

Su Excelencia
John Dee Greenway,
Ministro de Gran Bretaña,
Ciudad.-

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En la declaración rendida por el señor Pandelis de Simpson ante el Cónsul de Panamá en Nueva York, se ha asegurado formalmente al Gobierno de Panamá que los buques "MEDINA" y "CYPRESS" no se han destinado ni se destinarán jamás a actividades tales como el transporte de inmigrantes ilegales a Palestina, y que el uso a que se le destinen en el futuro estará sujeto a las disposiciones legales que rigen en Panamá sobre la materia. El señor Pandelis ha manifestado que dichos barcos serán acondicionados debidamente en una fecha posterior para destinarlos al transporte lícito de personas desplazadas de Europa a la América del Sur, pero ha afirmado categóricamente que dichos buques jamás se ocuparán del transporte ilícito de judíos a Palestina.

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Con respecto a la nave "ATALENA", se ha podido establecer igualmente que son infundadas las sospechas que se tienen sobre el tráfico ilegal de esta nave. Según informes suministrados por su representante legal en Panamá, se tiene conocimiento de que el barco se dedica actualmente al tráfico marítimo entre los puertos de Génova y Casablanca, transportando automóviles y bajo el seguro del respaldo de la casa Lloyd's, lo cual se estima como una garantía de seriedad. Por otra parte, el Cónsul de Panamá en Marsella, ha podido determinar como resultado de sus investigaciones, que son perfectamente correctas las operaciones a que se viene dedicando esta nave. Estima que las sospechas que recaían sobre ella probablemente han tenido su origen en las condiciones en que navega la nave, pero nunca con respecto a sus operaciones. La nave, según manifiesta, carece de mástil y siendo un "Liberty-Ship", se presta a considerar que se la destinaria a tráfico ilícito, pero el dueño de la misma ha expuesto que la falta de grúa se debió a que en un principio se iba a acondicionar la nave como buque tanque y que por tanto precisaba de este artefacto, pero últimamente se ha decidido destinarla al transporte de carga solamente, y a este respecto ha mostrado los planos necesarios para la instalación de la aludida grúa, trabajo que se efectuará en el término de dos meses, según cálculo de la Compañía propietaria de la nave.

En vista de los informes que preceden, en los cuales se destaca que las naves tantas veces mencionadas no se dedican ni se han dedicado al transporte de inmigrantes judíos a Palestina ni a otras actividades ilegales, el Ministerio de Hacienda y Tesoro estima que no hay lugar para ordenar la cancelación de las patentes correspondientes a esas naves, mientras no se acredite fehacientemente

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te fehacientemente que estas estén viendo las disposiciones
marítimas vigentes en Panamá.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para testimoniarle las se-
guridad e de mi más alta y distinguida consideración,

Mario de Diego,
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

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te fehacientemente que estas estén viulando las disposiciones
marítimas vigentes en Panamá.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para testimoniarle las se-
guridade s de mi más alta y distinguida consideración,

Mario de Diego,
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores.

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TRANSLATION.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

D.P. No. 484

Panama, March 9, 1948.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Reference is made to Your Excellency's courteous communications Nos. 8 and 11/176/48 of January 13, 1948 and to the notes of this Ministry replying to same, D.P. Nos. 115 and 119 of the 14th of the said month, regarding the request of that Mission to the effect that the necessary steps be taken to cancel the Panamanian registry of the vessels "MEDINA", "ATALENA" and "CYPRESS", on the grounds that they are engaged in the transport of Jewish immigrants.

In this respect I wish to advise that the Ministry of Finance and Treasury has forwarded a report to this Ministry stating that the investigations carried out by the Panamanian Consuls in Genoa, Italy and Marseilles, France, have established the fact that the vessels mentioned are not engaged in nor have they engaged in illegal commerce, and consequently, they cannot proceed with the cancellation of the registry of the vessels mentioned unless adequate proof is presented of the illicit acts with which the said vessels are charged.

According to information obtained by this Ministry from reliable sources, it is known that the vessel "MEDINA" was chartered to transport 4,000 tons of sugar from Cuba to Genoa. The vessel sailed from New York on December 4, 1947, calling at Tanamo, Cuba where she loaded a cargo of sugar and sailed for her final destination. During the middle of January the vessel called at Las Palmas, Canary Islands where certain repairs were made of damages suffered during the voyage. She sailed from Las Palmas January 18 and arrived at

Genoa

His Excellency
John Dee Greenway,
Minister of Great Britain,
P A N A M A.

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Genoa where she effected the discharge of the sugar. The Panamanian Consul at Genoa delayed the sailing of the vessel while carrying out the investigation of the case in order to determine whether she was engaged in illicit traffic, but he was able to establish the fact that the said vessel is not engaged in nor has it engaged in the transport of passengers of any kind, since the conditions of her registry limit her to the transportation of cargo only. Recently the said vessel has been chartered by O.P. Secretant, 12 Billiter Street, London, to ply between Marseilles, France and La Guaira, Venezuela. According to a statement made before the Panamanian Consul General in New York by Mr. Pandelis Simpson, of the firm of Spence and Young, the said vessel was chartered by Cuban sugar merchants for the transport of sugar to Europe.

As regards the vessel "CYRESS", although its registry permits it to transport passengers, it has not engaged in nor is it engaged in the illicit transport of Jews.

In the statement made by Mr. Pandelis Simpson before the Panamanian Consul in New York, the Panamanian Government has been formally assured that the vessels "MEDINA" and "CYPRESS", have not engaged in nor will they ever be engaged in activities such as the illegal transport of immigrants to Palestine, and that the use to which they may be put in future shall be subject to the legal provisions in effect in Panama governing the matter. Mr. Pandelis has stated that the said vessels are to be reconditioned at some future date for the purpose of using them in the legal transport of displaced persons from Europe to South America, but he has stated categorically that the said vessels will never be engaged in the illicit transport of Jews to Palestine.

In respect of the vessel "ATALENA", it has
likewise

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likewise been established that the suspicion entertained against this vessel of being engaged in illegal traffic is unfounded. According to information furnished by the vessel's legal representative in Panama, it is known that the vessel is at present engaged in maritime trade between the ports of Genoa and Casablanca, transporting motor-cars, the insurance being underwritten by Lloyd's, which is regarded as a guarantee of trustworthiness. On the other hand, the Panamanian Consul at Marseilles has been able to ascertain as a result of his investigations, that the operations in which the vessel has been engaged are perfectly legitimate. He is of the opinion that the suspicions which were directed at her probably had their origin in the condition under which she had been sailing, but could have no bearing in respect of her activities. The vessel, according to his statement, does not have a mast, and being a "Liberty Ship" lends one to believe that she would be used in unlawful traffic, but the owners have stated that the lack of a derrick is due to the fact that from the beginning the vessel was to have been reconditioned as a tanker and as a consequence the mast was discarded, but that, recently it was decided to employ her in the transport of cargo only, and in this connection they have produced the necessary plans for the installation of the said derrick, which will be carried out in two months, according to estimates made by the company owning the vessel.

In view of the reports aforementioned, from which it will be observed that the vessels so many times referred to, are not engaged in nor have they engaged in the transport of Jewish immigrants to Palestine, nor in other unlawful activities, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury is of the opinion that there are no grounds for ordering the cancellation of the registry of those vessels, unless bonafide proof is advanced that they are violating

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- 4 -

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violating the maritime provisions in force in Panama.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(Sgd.) Mario de Diego
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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Class...371.....

Piece 68519.....

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$E = 3785/2/316$

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E 3/95

65

1948

PALESTINE

23 MAR 1948

Illegal Immigration, "SETTE FRATELLI"

Registry Number } E3795/2/31

FROM

Chancery

No. Confidential aa Paris

Dated

16/10/48

Received
in Registry }20th March
23rd "

Refers Palestine Savingram No, 67 (E3654/2/G)
Information available does not bear out Palestine
Governments statement that there is a likelihood
that "SETTE FRATELLI" embarked her passengers from
the South of France.

Gives available information, states that the true
story will doubtless emerge from the interrogation
of the crew.

Last Paper.

7785

References.

7/13

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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1 Hig Lam. P.O.
Noddle. Admty
Mpr

(Action
completed.)

✓ ELL 5/4

(Index.)

25/4/48

Next Paper.

3890

(Minutes.)

Copy

M.I.5

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Admty

usual names

JB Mar. 24

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British Embassy,

Paris

March 20th 1948.

16/10/48

CONFIDENTIAL

23 MAR 1948

Dear Department,

You have no doubt seen telegram No: 67 Saving from the High Commissioner for Palestine to the Colonial Office enclosing two reports on the illegal immigrant ship "SETTE FRATELLI" which was intercepted on February 20th. The Palestine authorities state that there is a likelihood that this vessel embarked her passengers from the south of France, but the information available here does not bear out this suggestion.

2. After being arrested by the French police in December last (see Kay's letter to Coulson dated February 11th, copied to you) this ship left Toulon in ballast on January 22nd, ostensibly for Genoa. She then put in at Bastia for minor repairs and sailed again on January 24th (as far as we know without passengers), declaring her destination as Naples. Reports were subsequently received that the "SETTE FRATELLI" had been seen in the neighbourhood of Gaeta Bay, near Naples. That evidence we have points rather to an embarkation from an Italian port. It is most unlikely that this vessel attempted to embark Jews from French territory after leaving Toulon in ballast. Her Captain and crew had already been in difficulties with the French authorities, her activities had excited considerable comment in the Marseilles and Toulon press and from conversations which Gallagher (who was at Marseilles at the time) had with the Head of the Toulon police, it appeared that the French had no intention of relaxing their vigilance once this ship had sailed.

3. The true story will doubtless emerge from the interrogation of the crew.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

Eastern Department
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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<p>53 1948</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E3890 /G</p> <p>26 MAR 1948</p> <p>67</p>
<p>E389012 1/2</p> <p>31/2</p> <p>Mr Holmes C.O.</p> <p>to Mr Reith</p> <p>Y6021/46A/48</p> <p>Series</p> <p>Dated 23 March</p>	<p>Arrival in Palestine of</p> <p>M.V. <u>Rondine</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E3785</p> <p>References</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>Return 2nd encls. with</p> <p>my comps. pse</p> <p>Southern Dept 17/1</p> <p>24.</p> <p>JB Mar. 31</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>Second enclosure</p> <p>returned (Comps. Mr. Ball)</p> <p>April 5/4</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>GW 5/4</p>	<p>(Index)</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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257 PS SECTION. INFORMATION ON COMPS.

REPORT ON THE TWO SHIPS FROM THE ROLDINE.

29 FEB 48.

PASSENGERS.

1. The passengers of the Roldine consisted of a very large number of Bulgarian Jews with the remainder a mixture of Rumanians, Hungarians, Poles, and what would appear to have been a few Frenchmen. As usual, they were for the most part loath to speak any European language, although some admitted a slight knowledge of French. Especially noticeable was the lack of German speaking immigrants.

2. These immigrants lived up to their reputation of being shabbily dressed, though the supplies of warm clothing were more than adequate. One man was seen to have five pairs of trousers on. They were, for the most part, of working class origin, with a number of students, thus accounting for their average age being about 25 years. As in the last ship, a set of both dentists' and doctors' instruments was found. One outstanding feature was the number of musical instruments carried by the immigrants, accompanied by an unusually cheerful atmosphere.

3. The majority would appear by interrogation to be members of the left-wing organisations. There were no traces even at the bottom of the hold, of any Party membership cards whatsoever. Numbers of groups of young Jews and Jewesses had clearly been selected for shipment to Palestine as potential warriors in the Jewish Defence forces. This is supported by the number of photographs of ex-partisans holding all types of automatic weapons.

JOURNEY.

4. The immigrants journeyed by various means to the staging point at MILAN. They then travelled for just over a day to a small port on the east coast of Italy, arriving just after dark. The embarkation, controlled by a multi-lingual member of Palmach, was completed by midnight.

5. The route taken appears to have been the usual route when sailing from Italy - down the Adriatic and between Crete and the Dodecanese.

6. The journey was comparatively calm compared with that of the last ship, and took about 13 days, which would make the date of departure 15 or 16th February 48.

PROPAGANDA

7. The Hatikva was sung lustily, as well as the other Jewish national songs, as the ship was brought alongside H.M.S. MAURITIUS over which the transshipments was carried out. A large 'Star of David' flag was flying from one of the two mast-heads, whilst painted both on the stern and on the front of the wheelhouse were the words, in English, 'Hagana Ship', and in Hebrew 'Donia Velochamin'. When translated this means 'Builders and Fighters'.

/TRANSHIPMENT.

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C. Transshipment was carried out swiftly and efficiently by R.I. personnel across U.S.S. "PRIMUS", which has relieved R.I.S. PHOENIX. There were only 3 strike or cases, none of which necessitated removal to hospital. There was no opposition whatsoever from the 500 prisoners and sailors.

8. The "Island" was the usual two-masted schooner of about 200 tons, much larger than the nearest arrival. In the hold there were two stories, each having four tiers of the usual wooden bunks fitted. The ship was quite as filthy as usual and amply supplied with usual food-stuffs. One thing lacking was the customary abundance of the local food and cigarettes. The ship came into H.M. Port under its own steam, and on arrival the engines were found to be in perfect working order. There was a wireless transmitter on board, also in good condition.

10. The security measures taken by the Jews were of a high standard. The passengers, as a whole, professed complete and absolute ignorance of everything concerning the preparations for the voyage. There were very few documents of any value, and there was no visible evidence of any of the right wing organisations.

11. It seems to be customary knowledge, the Jewish population in HAMPA has accepted this latest transgression without comment or retaliatory action.

18. The following conclusions may be drawn from the above evidence:

- (a) That the U.S. can still carefully select passengers who will be of use to the Jewish Refugee Forces in Palestine.
- (b) That the true picture of the situation in Palestine is still being withheld from the land wars by the Jewish authorities in Europe.

Officer Commanding; 887 Pz Section, Inf Corps.

(2. JUNE).

MOO 3 A/B Div	1.	RM. Comodoro	38
CRA 3 A/B Div	2.	3 P.S.C.	39
OSO 1 Ops 6 A/B Div	3.	373 P.S.C.	39
BLO Northern Pal.	4.	387 P.S.C.	31
OSI 3 A/B Div	5 - 7.	317 P.S.C.	38
OSI IR. Palestine	10 - 105.	File	32
COMPAL	31, 37.	Records	34

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No. 26

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HIS Majesty's Minister at Panama
presents his compliments to H.E. Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Legation.....

Panama. E

15th March, 1948.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office tel. No. 10 to Panama of 16th Jan. 1948.
Panama's note No. 11 to Panamanian L.F.A. " " "

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Panamanian Minister for Foreign Affairs' note No. 459 of March 12th 1948 (with translation.)	Jewish Illegal Immigration.

E 4044

31 MAR 1948

3479A 25019-2 (4)

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Señor Ministro:

Sobre el particular cumples confirmarle la información que tuve a bien suministrarle verbalmente, en el sentido de que los respectivos funcionarios consulares de Panamá han manifestado categóricamente que no han expedido pasaporte ni otorgado visas de ninguna clase a los viajeros de que hace mención en su nota que contesto.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para testimoniarle las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración,

Su Excelencia
John Dee Greenway,
Ministro de Gran Bretaña,
Ciudad.-

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Panama, March 12, 1948.

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His Excellency
John Dee Greenway,
Minister of Great Britain,
PANAMA.

1948

E

E 4066

51 MAR 1948

PALESTINE

TELEGRAM FROM

No. **Consul General**

Dated **TUNIS**
22

Received
in Registry

30th March
31st "

Illegal Immigration.

Refers Tunis telegram No, 13 (E2272/2/31)
Massimino Giro arrived Tunis from St Louis on March
28th with 316 tons of mixed cargo.
C. inC Med Informed.

Last Paper.

4044

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8.99 /

31. mar

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

7 Feb 1944

10/14/88

Next Paper.

4112

(Minutes.)

JB mas. 31

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30471 E.O.P

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM TUNIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 4066

His Majesty's Consul-General

No. 22

30th March, 1948

D. 2.30 p.m. 30th March, 1948
R. 4.45 p.m. 30th March, 1948

MAR 1948

SECRET

My telegram No. 13.

Jewish immigrants.

Massimino Ciro arrived at Tunis from St. Louis
Duala [sic] Rhone on March 28th with 316 tons of mixed cargo.

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean informed.

888

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1948

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E 4112

11 APR 1948

Registry Number E4112/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM
Lord Inverchapel
WASHINGTONNo. 1538
Dated 31st March
Received 1st April
in RegistryIllegal Immigrant ship "Mayflower" renamed
"Mala"

State Department have given information about a ship which they think is intended for Illegal Immigration, she is the former presidential yacht "Mayflower". She is being renamed "Mala" and is being run by Collin's Industries, the head of which is Morris Ginsberg, whose name has previously been linked with Illegal Jewish Immigration. Her Master is named Maltese and she is due to sail on 1st April for Italian Ports via Cuba. Near Eastern Division are suggesting that ship be delayed for investigation.

Last Paper.

4066

References.

(Minutes.)

NA Acpt.
B. H. W.

JS Apr. 1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. 9.8.1.
April 1st

(Action completed.)

P. L. H. / 4

(Index.)

P. L. H. / 4

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4115
14204

30471 F.O.P.

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E 4112

1 APR 1948

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Cypher/CTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Lord Inverchapel. D. 10.25 p.m. 31st March, 1948.

No. 1538.

31st March, 1948. R. 4.45 a.m. 1st April, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Panama and Consul-General New York Saving.

IMPORTANT. SECRET.

Addressed to F.O. No. 1538 of 31/3, repeated for information to Jerusalem, Panama and Consul-General New York Saving.

State Department have informed us about a new ship which they believe to be intended for the Jewish illegal immigration traffic. This is the former Presidential yacht "Mayflower" which was sold to a British or Canadian subject named Frank Shaw, of Montreal and Quebec, for 20,000 dollars, transferred to the Canadian flag in December 1946 and re-transferred to the Panamanian flag on 25th March of this year. She is at present lying in the Sullivan yard at Brooklyn, New York, her forward compartments have been turned into dormitories and she has armoured protection on her deck. She is being renamed the "Mala" and is being run by Collin's Industries, the head of which is Morris Ginsberg. Her agents are the Foreign Steamship Company (of which Ginsberg's father is President) and her operating agents are the Nelson Line of 170, Broadway, New York City. Her Master is named Maltese and she is due to sail on 1st April for Italian ports via Cuba.

2. We have reminded the Near Eastern Division that Ginsberg was instrumental in providing oil for the "President Warfield" and that his name was also mentioned in connexion with the "Colonel F.C. Johnson". They are now suggesting to Mr. Lovett that the clearance of this ship should be delayed pending further investigation and have promised to let us know the outcome.

Foreign Office please repeat to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 138.

[Copy sent to Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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E

E 4277

7A

6 APR 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 4277/2/31

FROM

No. P. Holmer
Colonial OfficeDated 76021/46a/48
to Mr. Beith
Received } 3rd April
in Registry } 6th "Presence of Bulgarians in Jewish Camps in Cyprus.

Refers telephone conversation in which Mr. Beith asked further information about the presence of Bulgarians in the Jewish Camps in Cyprus. Quotes various references of telegrams which have been copied to the Foreign Office, feels that the Authorities in Palestine and Cyprus are doing all they can, but will approach them again if necessary.

Last Paper.

4255

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

JLH/21/4

(Index.)

JLH/21/4

Next Paper.

4280

(Minutes.)

I think we can leave this.
Jerusalem repeat everything then
send on this subject to Sofia
JB Apr. 21

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Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

My Reference 76021/46A/48

Your Reference

3rd ~~2nd~~ April, 1948.

SECRET

My dear Beith,

APR 1948
You asked me on the telephone
other day whether there was any more information
about the presence of Bulgarians in the Jewish
Camps in Cyprus.

2. I have been looking through our files and see that we asked the High Commissioner for information on this point on the 11th February, (telegram No. 526). He replied, in telegram No. 374, that the only information available had been sent in the detailed reports of the disembarkation of the PAN ship immigrants, (copies of which were sent to you for perusal), but that he would try to find out more about the presence of Bulgarians, and would let us know as soon as anything came to light.

3. Paragraph 4 of Palestine telegram No. 456, repeated to Sofia No. 486, gave the names of five Bulgarians who had been identified by the documents they carried; while paragraph (C) of Palestine telegram No. 537, repeated to Sofia No. 562, gave a further five names. This paragraph, incidentally, was headed "Germans" in error; obviously "Bulgarians" was intended.

14.

J. G. S. BEITH, ESQ.

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4. On the 23rd February we asked the Commissioner for Jewish Camps, Cyprus, in telegram No. 7, if he could give us any information about the existence of "Mapia, Bulgarian Group" in Camp 69. His telegram No. 21 stated that statistics prepared by the immigrants themselves showed the presence of 399 Bulgarians on the PAN ships; while a further reply, telegram No. 25 of the 12th March, gave unconfirmed information from military sources about the existence of some 175 Bulgarian communists in Cyprus.

5. These numbers have now no doubt been increased by later arrivals. The immigrants arriving on the "RONDINE", in particular, were mostly of Bulgarian origin. (See Palestine telegram No. 596, repeated to Sofia No. 623).

6. All the telegrams which I have mentioned have been copied to you. I think you will agree that the authorities in Palestine and Cyprus are fully alive to the importance which we attach to the collection of information with which H.M. representative in Sofia can confront the

/Bulgarian

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END.

Bulgarian authorities, and that they are doing all they can. In these circumstances I should feel reluctant to stir them up, but if you still feel that this is really necessary I am prepared to approach them again.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Holmer.

(P.C.H. Holmer)

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